

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 02073 031603Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 /082 W
-----011323 040119Z /75

R 031547Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO USINFO WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0738

UNCLAS DUBLIN 02073

E.O. 11652: N-A
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN THE IRISH PRESS, JULY 1, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE IRISH PRESS, JULY 1,
1978 UNDER THE HEADING "THE BARTERED SPIES".

THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY WHEELING AND DEALING IS QUITE
COMMONPLACE BETWEEN COMMUNIST AND DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNMENTS. HUMAN BEINGS ARE BARTERED AGAINST
ONE ANOTHER, NOT SO MUCH ON A NUMERICAL BASIS AS ON
THE VALUE THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS ATTACH TO THEM.
THERE IS AND HAS BEEN FOR YEARS A BRISK TRADE IN THE
EXCHANGE OF ALLEGED SPIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE SOVIET UNION AND BETWEEN WEST AND EAST GERMANY.

THIS WEEK AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WAS RELEASED INTO THE
CHARGE OF HIS COUNTRY'S AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW IN RETURN
FOR THE RELEASE OF TWO ALLEGED RUSSIAN SPIES TO THEIR
AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON. THE AMERICAN MR. FRANCIS J.
CRAWFORD, HAD BEEN IN CUSTODY SINCE JUNE 11 ON CURRENCY
LAW VIOLATION CHARGES, AND HIS FREEING IN EXCHANGE FOR
THE RELEASE OF THE TWO RUSSIANS ACCUSED OF
ESPIONAGE IN THE UNITED STATES FOLLOWED THE PATTERN
THAT HAS NOW BECOME ESTABLISHED PRACTICE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 02073 031603Z

A NEW AND SERIOUS DIMENSION HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE
SOMEWHAT FRAGILE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE KREMLIN AND
THE WHITE HOUSE BY THE SUMMONING OF TWO AMERICAN NEWSMEN
TO ANSWER CHARGES OF SLANDER IN A MOSCOW COURT.

THE TWO CORRESPONDENTS REPRESENT TWO OF THE MOST

RESPECTED NEWSPAPERS IN THE UNITED STATES - THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE BALTIMORE SUN.

THEY HAVE NOT BEEN TOLD THE NATURE OF THE ALLEGATIONS, WHICH HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN BROUGHT BY THE STATE TELEVISION AND RADIO ORGANISATION, BUT IT IS THOUGHT THAT THE RUSSIANS MAY BE TAKING THIS ACTION BECAUSE OF REPORTS SENT BY THE CORRESPONDENTS TO THEIR PAPERS OF THE SENTENCING IN GEORGIA LAST MONTH OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE DISSIDENT HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP.

THE ACTION AGAINST THE REPORTERS WILL BE SEEN AS A SETBACK TO THE POLICY OF DETENTE WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BEEN PRESSING, AND WHICH THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MR. CALLAGHAN, ALSO ESPOUSED IN A SPEECH IN WASHINGTON.

IT IS ALL TOO EASY TO ACCUSE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS OF SLANDERING THE REGIME IF THEY FILE STORIES EMBARRASSING TO THE RUSSIAN SECRET POLICE, FOR EXAMPLE.

A YEAR AGO A LOS ANGELES TIMES REPORTER WAS ACCUSED OF TRANSMITTING STATE SECRETS AND, AFTER HE HAD LEFT THE SOVIET UNION, OF WORKING FOR THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. A SIMILAR ALLEGATION WAS MADE AGAINST ANOTHER NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT LAST YEAR AFTER HE HAD GONE HOME TO AMERICA.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 02073 031603Z

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE THE GREATEST EXCEPTION TO THE HARASSING OF REPUTABLE NEWSPAPERMENT. WHAT A MOSCOW COURT MIGHT CONSTRUE AS SLANDER OF ITS COUNTRY'S INSTITUTIONS WOULD BE REGARDED IN A DEMOCRACY AS WHAT IT ALMOST CERTAINLY IS, FAIR AND UNPREJUDICED REPORTING.

REPORTERS SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS PAWNS IN A POLITICAL CHESS GAME BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER POWERS, AND THERE IS MORE THAN A SUSPICION OF A CENSORSHIP THREAT IN THE LATEST RUSSIAN ACTION. KRENE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DUBLIN02073
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780274-0938
Format: TEL
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197807100/aaaadgti.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b743c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1848084
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL IN THE IRISH PRESS, JULY 1, 1978 FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE IRISH PRESS, JULY 1, 1978 UNDER THE HEADING \"THE BARTERED SPIES\".
TAGS: SOPN, SHUM, PEPR, EI
To: ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b743c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014